

Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

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E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS

SUBJECT: CI CPROGRAM DEVELOPMENTS; C/ P/ M PLAN 16/ 17

BEGIN SUMMARY

1. WE ARE INFORMED BY CSOC THAT GENERAL PRAPASS HAS JUST APPROVED A KEY ELEMENT IN THE THAI COUNTERINSURGENCY PROGRAM FOR TFY 73, WHICH IMPLEMENTS IN THE CRUCIAL TRI- PROVINCE AREA OF NORTH CENTRAL THAILAND THE STRATEGY OUTLINED IN BKK 3903. THE PROGRAM (DESIGNATED 16/17 BY CSOC) AIMS AT " ISOLATION AND GRADUAL ELIMINATION" OF THE INSURGENT ORGAINZATION IN THE HIN LONG KLA/ PHU LOM LO MASSIF, THE SCENE OF EARLIER OPERATIONS PHU KWANG AND JTX-16. IN THIS AREA THE INSURGENTS HAVE BEEN MOVING SOUTHWARD CLOSER TO THE CENTRAL PLAIN.

2. PATTERNED AFTER THE MODEL APPLIED IN THE NORTHEAST' S NAKAE DISTRICT (BKK 1021 AND 4134), 16/17 DRAWS HEAVILY UPON TECHNIQUES PROVEN EFFECTIVE IN SOUTH THAILAND AND UPON FIELD REVIEW DURING OUR JOINT NORTH REGINAL CI MEETING LAST OCTOBER (BKK 15066). PERSISTENT MILITARY PROBES OF THE INSURGENT MAIN FORCE AREAS, INSTITUTIONAL STRENGTHENING OF GOVERNMENT PRESENCE IN THE SURROUNDING THAI AND HILL VILLAGES, INVESTIGATIVE ACTIONS AGAINST THE INFRASTRUCTURE, AND INFORMATION/ SELF- HELP PROGRAMS ARE PROVIDED FOR OPERATIONS COORDINATION CENTERS IN EACH OF THE EIGHT SURROUNDING DISTRICTS ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR LOCAL COORDINATION.

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3. OPERATION 16/17 IS SCHEDULED TO START IN PRELIMINARY FORM MAY 1, AND REACH FULL STRIDE WITH PLICATION OF THE TFY 74 BUDGET IN OCTOBER. END SUMMARY

4. AS WE REPORTED IN BKK 16489, PART II (OFFENSIVE PORTION), OF THE RTG NATIONAL CI PROGRAM ORIENTS ON THREE SELECTED PRIORITY TARGET AREAS WITH THE OBJECTIVES OF " ISOLATION AND GRADUAL ELIMINATION". CPM PLAN 14/15 WAS THE MODEL PLAN LAUNCHED IN NAKAE DISTRICT OF THE NE LAST YEAR. SCOS' S MASTER PLAN FOR 16/17 (HIN/ LONG KLA - PHU LOM LO) HAS JUST BEEN APPROVED BY GENERAL PRAPASS AND PLAN 17/18 (DOI PHA CHI) IS STILL TO BE DRAFTED.

5. THE TARGET AREA FOR PLAN 16/17 IS THE HIN LONG KLA - PHU LOM LO MASSIF NEAR THE COMMON BOUNDARY OF PHITSANULOK, PETCHAGUN AND LOEI PROVINCES AND INVOLVES EIGHT DISTRICTS. SINCE JANUARY 1 969, HIN LONG KLA HAS BEEN THE SITE OF A THAI PEOPLE' S LIB- ERATION ARMED FORCE (TPLAF) HEADQUARTERS AND PRESENTLY INCLUDES A TPLAF MAIN FORCE STRENGTH ESTIMATED AT 400-600.

6. THE " MISSION STATEMENT" FOR 16/17 CALLS FOR, " CIVIL, POLICE AND MILITARY UNITS AND OFFICIALS TO CONDUCT JOINT ACTIVITIES UNDER CSOC AND CSOC COORDINATION AND CONTROL HEADQUARTERS AT ALL LEVELS, TO SUPPRESS AND ELIMINATE COMMUNIST INSURGENCY IN THE DESIGNATED TARGET AREA (PHITSANULOK, LOEI AND PHETCHABUN); TO ISOLATE THE INSURGENCY IN THE TARGET AREA FROM ANY SUPPORT FROM THE VILLAGERS; TO WIN THE VILLAGERS' SUPPORT TO THE GOVERNMENT SIDE. THIS IS TO BE DONE BY SUPPRESSING AND ELIMINATING THE MAIN FORCES IN THE JUNGLES, DESTROYING THE INSURGENT INFRANSTRUCTURE IN THE VILLAGES, SEVERING THE TIES AND CONTACTS BETWEEN THE MAIN FORCES IN THE JUNGLE WITH THE PEOPLE OR INSURGENT INFRASTRUC- TURE IN THE VILLAGES, IMPROVING ADMINISTRATION, IMPROVING PUBLIC SERVICES AND THE STANDARDS OF LIVING OF THE PEOPLE IN THAT AREA."

7. THE " CONCEPT OF OPERATIONS" PROVIDES ADEQUATE GUIDANCE FOR PARTICIPATING RTG AGENCIES TO CONCERT THEIR EFFORTS AND DRAWS HEAVILY FROM THAI LESSIONS LEARNED AND TECHNIQUES PROVEN EFFEC- TIVE IN SOUTH THAILAND. HIGHLIGHTS INCLUDE;

A. " BASED ON RESULTS OF AN ACCELERATED INTELLIGENCE PROGRAM, LAUNCH CLEAN UP OPERATIONS AGAINSTTHE INSURGENT INFRASTRUCTURE -- LED BY DISTRICT OFFICIALS-- BY ARRESTING INFRASTRUCTURE MEMBERS ON A CONFIRMED BLACK LIST IN CONJUNCTION WITH MILITARY OPERATIONS
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AGAINST THE TPLAF MAIN FORCES IN THE JUNGLE."

B. LAUNCH PERSISTENT AND CONTINUOUS MILITARY OPERATIONS FROM
PATROL BASES AROUND THE MASSIF TO:

"(1) SUPPRESS CT IN JUNGLES AND MOUNTAINS BY RELYING ON
THE MAIN STRATEGY OF MAKING THE CT COME DOWN RATHER THAN MASSING
OUR OWN FORCES TO LAUNCH LARGE SCALE ASSAULTS AGAINST THEM.
DEPLOY SMALL GROUPS OF MEN ON CONTINUOUS BASIS TO HARRASS CT AND
OBTAIN INFORMATION AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE IN ORDER TO SUCCESSFULLY
IMPLEMENT THE MAIN STRATEGY.

(2) MAKE MAXIMUM USE OF SCOUTS, PATROLS AND OBSERVATION
POSTS ON A CONTINUOUS BASIS IN ORDER TO POSITIVELY LOCATE AND FIX
SPECIFIC TARGETS.

(3) CONDUCT RAIDS AGAINST TARGETS REPORTED BY PATROLS OR
SCOUTS USING SMALL COMBAT UNITS OF APPROXIMATELY 15-20 MEN
ON A REGULAR BASIS.

(4) AMBUSHES ARE TO BE CONDUCTED BOTH DURING THE DAY AND AT
NIGHT.

(5) MAKE MAXIMUM USE OF GUERRILLA AND JUNGLE TACTICS.

(6) MAKE MAXIMUM USE OF SNIPERS, DEMOLITION AND MECHNAICAL
AMBUSH, MINES AND BOOBY TRAPS, AND OTHER OBSTACLES"

8. WHILE THE ULTIMATE OBJECTIVES INCLUDE ELIMINATION OF THE
TPLAF AND INFRASTRUCTURE, THE IMMEDIATE PRIORITY OBJECTIVE IS
CLEARLY TO CONSOLIDATE GOVERNMENT PRESENCE AND INFLUENCE IN THE
SURROUNDING VILLAGES AND TO IMPLEMENT SOCIO- ECONOMIC AND
ADMINISTRATIVE PROGRAMS AT THE LOCAL LEVEL AIMED AT ELIMINATING
BASIC CAUSES OF INSURGENCY. IN THESE EFFORTS, VILLAGE COUNCILS,
VILLAGE VOLUNTEERS AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT WORKERS PLAY A
CENTRAL ROLE.

9. ACCORDING TO CSOC, OPERATION 16/17 WILL BE " PHASED IN" DURING
THE PRESENT ONGOING " OPERATION RAMASOON" (BKK 16804) AND WILL BE
EFFECTIVE FROM MAY 1. DETAILED TACTICAL IMPLEMENTING PLANS
(ANNEXES TO THE CSOC MASTER PLAN) ARE NOW BEING PREPARED BY RTG
AGENCIES (RTA, TNPD, MOI, ETC.) UNDER THE AEGIS OF CSOC. PER-
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SONNEL AND BUDGETARY REQUIREMENTS HAVE ALREADY BEEN IDENTIFIED
BY EACH AGENCY, IN GENERAL TERMS, AHEAD OF THE RTG BUDGET CYCLE
FOR NEXT FISCAL YEAR.
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